CLMPTO

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1. A supply circuit having a switching transistor (T1),
and a forcing circuit (ZS) for driving a control input of the switching transistor (T1),
characterized in that an oscillator circuit (OS) which is connected to the control input is provided and is configured in such a way that a startup operation of the supply circuit firstly carries out an oscillation which is independent of the forcing circuit (ZS) and in doing so actuates the control input of the switching transistor (T1), and the supply circuit is configured in such a way that the forcing circuit (ZS) is supplied, as a result of the driving of the control input by the oscillator circuit (OS), by a supply current produced by the supply circuit, and subsequently performs the driving of the control input of the switching transistor (T1).

2. The supply circuit as claimed in claim 1, in which the oscillator circuit (OS) is an amplifier circuit with a feedback (C71) which has an input (E) which is connected to an output (A1) of the forcing circuit (ZS), and an output (A2) which is connected to the control input of the switching transistor (T1), and serves as an amplifier for the output (A1) of the forcing circuit (ZS) when the control input of the switching transistor (T1) is driven by the forcing circuit (ZS).

3. (Amended) The supply circuit as claimed in claim 1, which is a power factor correction circuit (L1, L2, C1, D1, T1) for the

harmonic-limited extraction of a D.C. voltage from an A.C. power system.

4. The supply circuit as claimed in claim 3, which is a SEPIC converter (L1, L2, C1, D1, T1).

5. The supply circuit as claimed in claim 1, in which the forcing circuit (ZS) is a microcontroller.

6. (Amended) The supply circuit as claimed in claim 2, in which the operating function of the oscillator circuit (OS) is carried out as an oscillator circuit on the one hand, and as an amplifier circuit on the other, as a function of the circuit state of the input (E) of the oscillator circuit.

7. The supply circuit as claimed in claim 6, in which the oscillator circuit has a digital input which is connected to the output of the forcing circuit, and operates as a driver circuit when there is an input level of logic 0 or logic 1, and operates as an oscillator circuit when there is an input level in a nonspecific intermediate region.

8. The supply circuit as claimed in claim 6, in which the oscillator circuit (OS) operates as an amplifier circuit when there is a low impedance of the input (E) with respect to a reference potential, and as an oscillator circuit when there is a high impedance of the input (E) with respect to the reference potential.

9. An electronic ballast of a lamp having a supply circuit as claimed in claim 1.

10. The electronic ballast as claimed in claim 9, which is designed to supply a discharge lamp.

--11. The supply circuit as claimed in claim 2, which is a power factor correction circuit (L1, L2, C1, D1, T1) for the harmonic-limited extraction of a D.C. voltage from an A.C. power system.--

--12. The supply circuit as claimed in claim 3, in which the operating function of the oscillator circuit (OS) is carried out as an oscillator circuit on the one hand, and as an amplifier circuit on the other, as a function of the circuit state of the input (E) of the oscillator circuit.--

--13. The supply circuit as claimed in claim 4, in which the operating function of the oscillator circuit (OS) is carried out as an oscillator circuit on the one hand, and as an amplifier circuit on the other, as a function of the circuit state of the input (E) of the oscillator circuit.--

--14. The supply circuit as claimed in claim 5, in which the operating function of the oscillator circuit (OS) is carried out as an oscillator circuit on the one hand, and as an amplifier circuit on the other, as a function of the circuit state of the input (E) of the oscillator circuit.--

--15. The supply circuit as claimed in claim 12, in which the oscillator circuit has a digital input which is connected to the output of the forcing circuit, and operates as a driver circuit when there is an input level of logic 0 or logic 1, and operates as an oscillator circuit when there is an input level in a nonspecific intermediate region.--

--16. The supply circuit as claimed in claim 13, in which the oscillator circuit has a digital input which is connected to the output of the forcing circuit, and operates as a driver circuit when there is an input level of logic 0 or logic 1, and operates as an oscillator circuit when there is an input level in a nonspecific intermediate region.--

--17. The supply circuit as claimed in claim 14, in which the oscillator circuit has a digital input which is connected to the output of the forcing circuit, and operates as a driver circuit when there is an input level of logic 0 or logic 1, and operates

as an oscillator circuit when there is an input level in a nonspecific intermediate region.--

--18. The supply circuit as claimed in claim 12, in which the oscillator circuit (OS) operates as an amplifier circuit when there is a low impedance of the input (E) with respect to a reference potential, and as an oscillator circuit when there is a high impedance of the input (E) with respect to the reference potential.--

--19. The supply circuit as claimed in claim 13, in which the oscillator circuit (OS) operates as an amplifier circuit when there is a low impedance of the input (E) with respect to a reference potential, and as an oscillator circuit when there is a high impedance of the input (E) with respect to the reference potential.--

--20. The supply circuit as claimed in claim 14, in which the oscillator circuit (OS) operates as an amplifier circuit when there is a low impedance of the input (E) with respect to a reference potential, and as an oscillator circuit when there is a high impedance of the input (E) with respect to the reference potential.--